

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 2, 4-9, 11-16, and 18-22 are pending. Claims 3, 10, and 17 are cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, and 18 are amended, and claim 22 is added. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Foreign Priority

It is gratefully appreciated that the Examiner has acknowledged the Applicant's claim for foreign priority

Oath/Declaration

The Examiner indicates that the Oath/Declaration is missing. The Applicant respectfully submits that a signed Declaration was filed on January 17, 2002. A copy of the Declaration filed on January 17, 2002 is attached for the Examiner's convenience.

Objection to the Drawings/Amendments to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because reference characters (S46) and (S55) shown in FIGS. 14 and 15, respectively, are not mentioned in the specification. In response, the Applicant has amended pages 18 and 19 of the specification to provide antecedent basis for reference characters (S46) and (S55) shown in FIGS. 14 and 15, respectively. Accordingly, no changes to the drawings are needed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Chui et al. (U.S. 6,657,702);

claims 2, 9, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chui et al. in view of Enomoto et al. (U.S. 5,974,401); and

claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chui et al. in view of Fredlund et al. (U.S. 6,154,295).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 8, and 15

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 is amended herein to recite a novel combination of features, including *inter alia*

displaying on the user terminal a list of the image data stored in the server at the time the order for the print is placed if the order is not placed at the time the image data are transferred, and

if the order for the print of the image data is an order for a postcard which has seasonality, further comprising the step of setting a storage period of the image data to a period corresponding to a content of the postcard.

Support for the novel features above can be found in the specification, for example, on page 21, lines 8 to 14.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Chui et al.

By contrast, the Chui et al. document merely discloses a method for facilitating the reordering of prints. Chui et al. column 14, line 63, indicates that prints may be a holiday card. However, there is no hint in the Chui et al. document of a method or a device for setting a storage period of the image data to a period corresponding to a content of the postcard, as presently set forth in claim 1, 8, and 15.

At least for the reasons described above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the novel combination of features set forth in each of independent claims 1, 8, and 15 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Chui et al.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 8, and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Added Independent Claim 22

In addition, independent claim 22 is added herein to recite a novel combination of features directed to a print ordering method used in a print ordering system comprising a server for receiving an order for a print of image data and a user terminal which is connected to the server via a network and used for placing the order for the print of the image data, the print ordering method comprising the steps of:

accepting transfer of the image data to the server and storing the image data in the server regardless of whether or not the order is placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

receiving the order for the print of the image data stored in the server after the image data are stored in the server in the case where the order was not placed at the time of the transfer of the image data;

performing transfer the image data to the server when communications costs are low; and
writing a storage period of the image data in tag information of the image data.

Support for the step *“performing transfer the image data to the server when communications cost are low”* can be found, for example, on page 11, lines 16 to 21 of the specification, and support for the step of *“writing a storage period of the image data in tag information of the image data”* can be found, for example, on page 14, lines 20-23, and page 18, lines 4-25, of the specification.

The Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of features set forth in independent claim 22 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Chui et al., Enomoto et al., and Fredlund et al.

There is no mention or suggestion in any of the Chui et al., Enomoto et al., and Fredlund et al. documents that the inventors thereof were concerned with minimizing communication costs by *“performing transfer the image data to the server when communications cost are low”*, as presently claimed.

In addition, the Chui et al. document merely discloses a method for facilitating the reordering of prints. However, there is no hint in the Chui et al. document of a method for *“writing a storage period of the image data in tag information of the image data”*, as presently claimed.

While Enomoto et al. and Fredlund et al. disclose methods of ordering prints, neither of these documents makes any mention of either “*writing storage period of the image data*” or “*writing a storage period of the image data in tag information of the image data*”, as presently claimed.

At least for the reasons above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of features set forth in independent claim 22 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Chui et al., Enomoto et al., and Fredlund et al.

Therefore, independent claim 22 is in condition for allowance.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$1020.00 is attached hereto.

Application No.09/986,476
Amendment dated: March 8, 2006
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2005

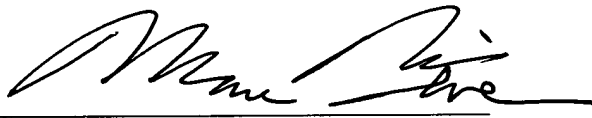
Docket No.2091-0247P
Art Unit: 2622
Page 15 of 15

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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